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CONTENTS

In Memoriam

EDWIN COOPER VAN DYKE

1869 - 1952

ESSIG—Edwin Cooper Van Dyke 73
LEECH—Entomological bibliography of Edwin C. Van Dyke 89
VAN DYKE—New Coleoptera from western North America 98
VAN DYKE—New Coleoptera from western North America 102
VAN DYKE—A new cossonid from California, probably introduced 107
CHANGE OF RULING on permits to collect insects and arachnids in areas administered by the National Parks Service 109
Book Notice 109

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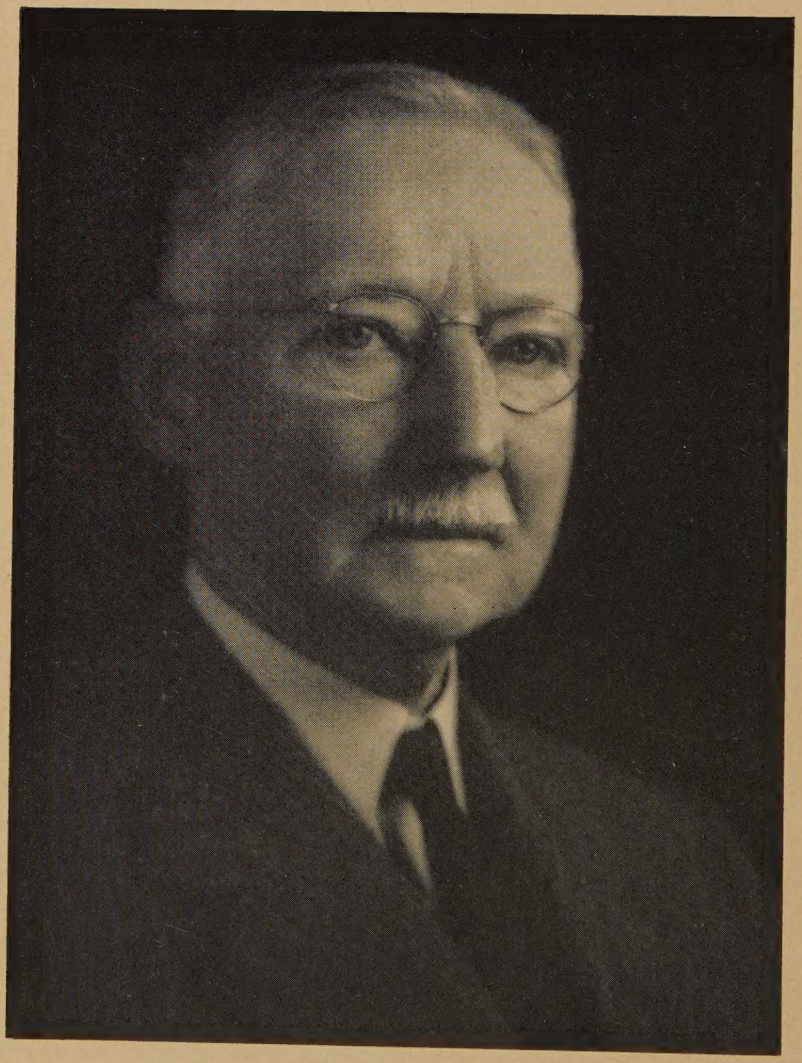

Edwin C. Van Dyke

The Pan-Pacific Entomologist

Vol. XXIX April, 1953 No. 2

EDWIN COOPER VAN DYKE

E. O. Essig

Edwin Cooper Van Dyke was born in Oakland, California, April 7, 1869 and died in San Francisco, September 28, 1952. His father, Walter Van Dyke, who was of direct Dutch descent, was born in western New York in 1823, came across the plains to California in 1849 and became a prominent lawyer and judge and for many years an Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court. His mother, Rowena Cooper, was born on Prince Edward Island, Canada, September 21, 1835, and came around the Horn in her father's ship to San Francisco in 1850. They were married in Uniontown (Arcata), Humboldt County, California, in 1854.

As a high school boy in Oakland, he joined the Agassiz Club organized by Alice Hardy and was inspired to study nature. In this way he began to collect insects on his father's 7-acre piece of land. His first paper was published in the *Aegus*, Oakland High School paper, in 1885. In 1885 his parents moved to Los Angeles where he continued his high school studies and increased his interest in botany and collected many kinds of insects. By advertising in juvenile papers he became acquainted with Ralph Hopping, Kaweah, California, John D. Sherman, Jr., then a high school boy in New York, and many others. He also made the acquaintance of D. W. Coquillett, the tall red-haired field agent of the Division of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture, who was conducting fumigation experiments in his backyard in an attempt to control the ravages of the newly-introduced cottony cushion scale in the orange orchards. Coquillett was the first real entomologist that young Van Dyke met. He had a fine collection and taught Van Dyke many things about collecting and also gave him specimens and took him on collecting trips. His first insect collecting trip, in 1890, was made to Yosemite Valley, which he reached by means of donkeys. His first entomological article "Butterflies of the Yosemite" was published in *Zoe* in 1892. In Southern California he also became acquainted with the eminent entomologist Henry C. Fall who came to California in 1889, and also with A. Fenyes who became the great authority on the Aleocharinæ (Staphylinidæ), both of whom were then living in or near Pasadena.

He entered the University of California in 1889 and graduated with the B.S. degree in 1893, after which he entered the Cooper Medical College, San Francisco, from which he graduated as an M.D. in 1895. He served as an interne of the French Hospital, San Francisco, and then became associate surgeon of the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers located near Santa Monica, California, 1896–1898; and as a resident physician at St. Luke's Hospital, San Francisco, 1898–1900. "Here after two years of service," he states, "I was attacked with a severe illness which compelled me to resign." When he recovered he went east and took postgraduate work at the Postgraduate Medical College, New York City, and at Johns Hopkins Medical College, Baltimore, Maryland, 1901–1902, returning to San Francisco to become Physician in Charge, Good Samaritan Mission, 1903–1912, which was incidental to his private practice.

Following this short period of private practice in San Francisco, he decided to take up the study of entomology, a field which had interested him as a boy and the love of which continued throughout his life. His interest in insects began in 1881 and was expressed by making a very extensive collection of beetles in which he was most interested and of which he became one of the nation's greatest authorities. He had already collected throughout California, making special trips beginning in 1890, and which were continued until his death.

In 1913 he accepted the appointment of Assistant in Entomology, University of California at Berkeley, and began his long career in teaching, collecting, publishing and furthering the science of Entomology. He rose to Assistant Professor in 1916, Associate Professor in 1921, Professor in 1927, and Emeritus Professor in 1939. He was exchange Professor at Cornell University 1917–1918.

Dr. Van Dyke and the Pacific Coast Entomological Society

Because of Dr. Van Dyke's long continued active interest and participation in this club, having been elected president on November 23, 1907 and serving continuously until 1931, it seems desirable to mention some of the highlights of his great devotion to this society.

The first meeting of the entomologists on the Pacific Coast was called by Carl Fuchs, a self-taught entomologist born at Hanan, Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, November 24, 1839. He became an expert metal engraver and came to America and was from his youth a collector of insects. He and F. G. Schaupp founded the Brooklyn Entomological Society in 1872. He moved to California in 1884.

Responding to the call of Fuchs were: Wm. Ashmead, H. H. Behr, F. E. Blaisdell, H. C. Fall, W. G. W. Harford, Beverly Letcher, F. W. Nunenmacher and L. E. Ricksecker. Others communicated with by letter were F. C. Clark, J. W. Cottle, Alexander Craw, E. M. Ehrhorn, A. Fenyes, J. G. Grundel, G. W. Harney, C. W. Herr, L. O. Howard, Vernon Kellogg, Newton B. Pierce, J. J. Rivers, and C. A. Whiting. Nearly all of these later became members.

This first meeting was held at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco on August 15, 1901 and those present organized as the California Entomological Club. A constitution and by-laws were framed and adopted and all of those listed above became charter members.

Third meeting, February 22, 1902. Dr. Van Dyke presented a paper on the "Faunal Areas in California, as Seen by a Field Coleopterist", which began a long interest in the relation of insects, and especially the Coleoptera, to the life zones of western North America. In this general field he followed to a great extent the views of Dr. C. Hart Merriam, the eminent authority on the distribution of animals and plants in the western states. At this meeting also was determined the first "interfaunal" life between northern and central California.

Fifth meeting of the California Entomological Club, August 16, 1902. The name of the organization was changed to the Pacific Coast Entomological Society, because in reality its membership already extended from California on the south to Washington on the north.

Thirteenth meeting on August 20, 1904. This was the close of the third year of the society's existence. President Fuchs remarked that "Regarding the California Academy of Sciences, I have to say that the Entomological Department in charge of Dr. Van Dyke as curator and Chas. Fuchs as preparateur will give a good op-

portunity to every student of entomology to study the collection as well as to have access to the library, and our duty will be to make the Academy a center of research upon the Pacific Coast."

Nineteenth meeting, February 17, 1906. In Dr. Van Dyke's second paper an effort was made to show wherein the fauna of the West Coast more closely resembled that of Europe and North Asia than did that to the east of the Rocky Mountains.

Twenty-first meeting, August 25, 1906. This was the first after the great earthquake and fire, Dr. Van Dyke reported on the local entomologists and collections:

"The California Academy of Sciences was so much injured that it was only with the greatest difficulty that what few things were saved could be gotten out. Mr. Loomis, director; Miss Eastwood, botanist; and Miss Hyde, librarian, did what they could. There was saved simply the boxes containing the types of the Coleoptera, Hemiptera, and Hymenoptera. All else in the entomological department was lost, including the Behr collection of Lepidoptera and the entire library.

"Of private collections, the greatest loss was that sustained by Mr. Charles Fuchs of 212 Kearny Street, he having saved only about twenty-two boxes of specimens, those consisting of his generic collection of Coleoptera. His *Eleodes* were in the hands of Dr. Blaisdell, and were saved. Mr. James Cottle lost his entire collection of Lepidoptera. The Beverly Letcher collection of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera and library, which were stored in Mr. Cottle's house, were also destroyed. Mr. J. C. Huguenin lost his collection. That would leave the collection of F. X. Williams, which was in the unburned district, as the only good collection of Lepidoptera in the city. Dr. F. E. Blaisdell had one of his two cases of Coleoptera overturned by the earthquake. This, of course, resulted in destroying several hundred specimens. All specimens of *Eleodes* loaned to him for purpose of study were saved and but slightly injured. The collection of Coccidæ belonging to Mr. Edward M. Ehrhorn was, so far as could be learned, unharmed. My own collection of Cleoptera was also unharmed. Outside of the city of San Francisco, the collection of Coleoptera of Mr. Edgar L. Ricksecker of Santa Rosa was entirely destroyed.

"This has been a tremendous blow to us all, and rare is the person who has not lost something. First was the earthquake,

though causing the loss of a great many lives and much destruction of property, would not have been noticed. It was the fire that did the great damage, destroying all of the city, except a fringe of residences; Dr. Blaisdell and I were, fortunately, in this belt. The Academy was in the midst of the conflagration."

Twenty-sixth meeting of the Society, November 23, 1907. It was held at the residence of Dr. F. E. Blaisdell, 1632 Post Street, San Francisco, Dr. Van Dyke was elected President, the office which he held consecutively for twenty-three years, or until December 31, 1931. During this time his close friend and associate Dr. F. E. Blaisdell filled the office of treasurer and secreary from the founding of the Society August 7, 1901 until Sept. 11, 1926. These two men piloted the Society through many difficulties and were responsible more than any other members for preserving it through many lean and difficult years.

Twenty-seventh meeting, February 22, 1908. This was the first meeting over which he presided. Eleven persons were present; they were Dr. Van Dyke, Charles Fuchs, J. C. Huguenin, E. M. Ehrhorn, F. X. Williams, Percy Baumberger, and Dr. F. E. Blaisdell, and four visitors.

Dr. Van Dyke "delivered an address reviewing the progress of Entomology on the Pacific Coast", which he divided into the following three periods:

"First Period—Before the 18th century, nothing done; two species were described from this coast: *Buprestis aurulenta* by Linneaus and *Carolius taedatus*, the latter supposed to have been collected by Cook at Unalaska and given to Banks, it being described by Fabricius."

"Second period—First work was done by the early Russian voyagers or officials. The first descriptions were by Fischer[1] based on work done on the Aleutian Islands. The epoch-making voyage of the Kotsebue Sound expedition."

"Third Period—From 1845 to 1885. Representing the work of LeConte in describing species from Fort Tejon, San Diego, and Colorado Desert, collected by Lawrence, W. M. Gabb, Xanthus de Vesey and the works of G. Horn from 1861–1865. Others making contributions during this period were Dr. H. H. Behr, P. J. Lor-

[1] Collected chiefly by Fischer in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, 1835-1840 and described by Carl G. von Mannerheim of Sweden.

quin, J. A. Boisduval, J. Behrens, C. R. Osten Sacken, L. E. Ricksecker, J. J. Rivers, Carl Fuchs and T. L. Casey. Much of the taxonomic work on insects was now being done in the west."

At this meeting Dr. Van Dyke was presented with a gavel.

Thirty-fifth meeting, Feb. 19, 1910, "Dr. Van Dyke gave an interesting talk on the results of his studies on the Coleoptera collected on the Galapagos expedition of the California Academy of Sciences." This collection, consisting of 150 species of Coleoptera, was made by F. X. Williams who reported on them at the twenty-third regular meeting of the Society on February 23, 1907. It is interesting to note that Dr. Van Dyke finished writing the full report on this collection shortly before he died.

Fifty-fifth meeting, March 6, 1915. Miss Mary Ames was elected to membership of the Society. On June 7 of that year she became Mrs. Edwin C. Van Dyke and was a faithful member and a constant companion and helper of the doctor. She had been a school teacher and was much interested in natural history and was also a summer student under Dr. Van Dyke. She was born in Rutland, Iowa, January 28, 1872.

Sixty-Second meeting, December 9, 1916. Dr. Van Dyke gave a very interesting talk on the systematic character, habits and distribution of the species of *Anthophilax*, *Pachyta* and *Toxotus* (Cerambycidæ) with an exhibition of the species.

Sixty-third meeting, March 17, 1917. "Dr. Van Dyke stated that once when he was collecting at Banning, he came across a section of the valley which had been burnt off by the Indians and in the burnt mesquite bushes, Buprestids were very abundant, especially *Chrysobothris merkelii Horn*."

Seventy-fifth meeting, March 20, 1920. Dr. E. C. Van Dyke gave a most interesting talk on "The ways in which the Carabidæ have differentiated and the factors which have influenced them in accommodating themselves to their diverse environments." The doctor exhibited an arrangement of certain tribes so as to show the divergence.

Special meeting held at the University of Washington, Seattle, in conjunction with the Pacific Division, A.A.A.S., June 18, 1920. Dr. Van Dyke read a paper entitled "The Inter-Tidal and Beach Coleopterous Fauna of Western North America, With Remarks Upon its Peculiarities and Probable Origin." He discussed espec-

ially the inter-tidal zone and the dry beach zone and their sand-dwelling species including 11 families of beetles.

"The general peculiarities of the seacoast dwelling Coleoptera such as their loss of wings, loss of color, hairiness and so forth, were also discussed from the standpoint of their probable origin."

Eigthy-seventh meeting, Stanford University, November 18, 1922. Mrs. Van Dyke said she thought it time for the Society to consider starting a publication and suggested that it be brought up for discussion.

Ninety-sixth meeting, December 13, 1924. Dr. Van Dyke gave an extensive report on a study of the tribe Meloini of the Meloidæ, or blister beetles.

One hundred and second meeting, December 12, 1925. Dr. Van Dyke presented a paper: "The Secondary Sexual Characters of the Coleoptera."

"The secondary sexual character of the Coleoptera are, I believe, the most numerous and most diverse of any order of insects.

Parts. I. Characters chiefly of value in enabling the sexes to find each other.

II. Characters of assistance in mating.

III. Characters which may be of possible value to the males in combat.

IV. Characters which are hypertrophic or merely ornamental.

V. Characters which are of value to the female during oviposition.

VI. Characters which are of value to the sexes while performing their household duties."

Entomological Trips and Excursions

Dr. Van Dyke covered vast areas in order to obtain specimens and information on insects, especially beetles.

The first important trip was made in 1902 when he went to do postgraduate work at the Postgraduate Medical College, New York and at Johns Hopkins Medical College, Baltimore, Maryland. During this period he met eastern entomologists and studied their

collections about which he reported at the sixth quarterly meeting of the Pacific Coast Entomological Society on November 15, 1902.

During these early days he also collected extensively throughout California during the years 1890, 1892, 1895, 1896, 1899 and 1901. Special trips were also recorded as follows:

1903. Lake Tahoe, California.

1905. Washington State—for a month.

1907. The Aleutian Islands, Alaska—five months.

1911–1913. Oregon, Washington and Vancouver, B. C.

1917–1918. Exchange Professor at Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. Here he collected both insects and library materials. During this period he visited the great collections at the Boston Society of Natural History Museum, Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., and a number of University collections.

1923. Much of the eastern and western parts of Oregon including the Steens, Wallowa Mountains, Blue Mountains, and the adjacent regions.

1923–1924. Trip to China, Manchuria, and Japan with Mrs. Van Dyke. On sabbatical leave, 1923–1924. This trip to Orient was chiefly for the purpose of collecting Coleoptera in those countries. Much of the time was spent at Southeastern University at Nanking, China.

Little has been recorded concerning this trip. Strangely enough Dr. Van Dyke never reported on this expedition at the meetings of the Pacific Coast Entomological Society—at least there is no record in the published minutes.

However, at the ninety-second meeting, on November 8, 1923 "in reply to inquiries, Dr. Blaisdell stated that Dr. Van Dyke expected to sail from Shanghai for home December 8, and would arrive in January." Among his bibliographical items is the following: 1924. Manchuria's Greatest Need—Population. The China Weekly review, vol. XXVII (No. 6), pp. 200–201.

1924. Western Oregon, including the Mt. Hood region, parts of Washington, including Mt. Adams.

1926. The Rocky Mountain region.

1927. Oregon, Washington and Idaho. On this trip he noted

the European earwig very numerous at Cannon Beach, Oregon and the presence of the strawberry weevil in that state.

1933. Trip to Europe on sabbatical leave with Mrs. Van Dyke. His experiences as told in letters received by various members of the staff furnish very interesting and interpretive sidelights of his thoroughness, humor, and keen interest in his chosen field. Some of his statements and reflections follow:

"In Paris, Brussels, Berlin, Dresden and Prague I examined the collections in the various museums quite thoroughly and made valuable contacts and gathered a great deal of information. I also got in touch with the investigators and field workers wherever possible and found out what were their most important problems. Needless to say I did a bit more sightseeing, viewed a few thousand pictures and to please Mrs. V-D looked into a number of shops."

"Dresden is a beautiful city. Dr. Van Emden, the Custodian of Entomology, a genial and able man, interested in the early stages of insects. In Dresden I also met Dr. Heller, the specialist on Rhynchophora, now old and feeble but mentally acute. You may remember that he worked up much of Dr. Baker's material. The types are all in the Dresden Mu. Collection which is not particularly large, but well arranged. I also found in the Dresden Coll. many of the early types of Fisher von Waldheim, including a number of our Alaskan ones collected by Eschscholtz.

"The Prague Collection is young but vigorous and enlarging by leaps and bounds. There is an enthusiastic group of young naturalists there and they are doing things. In a few years Prague will be a great entomological center. Dr. Obenberger's collection of Buprestidæ is one of the two largest in existence. The economic work being done is of a high order. I, of course, paid attention to the forest insect group.

The Vienna Collection in the Great Hoffmuseum is of course one of the finest in Europe, the best in Palaearctic

specimens. It was most interesting to be working in the rooms where the great Ganglbauer, Rechtenbacher, Brauer and Handlirsch had worked. The last is still alive but has had a slight stroke so does not visit the museum now. Seven or eight flights of marble steps is a bit too much for him.

"In Cairo, we felt right at home. The climate is genial and the boys are doing their best to enable us to see as much as possible . . . The monuments and museums here are of course most interesting. I think that they doubled the guards while I was examining the fine scarabs taken from King Tut's tomb. I could easily use several. They were fine."

June 7, 1935, Flagstaff, Ariz.

"Have done Zion and Bryce Cns. and north and south rims of Grand Cn. besides other places of less importance and leave here tomorrow for Santa Fe, stopping several nights along road. All well. Gasoline Bill's fully up to reputation of a two-year old." (Referring to second-hand car.)

June 16, 1935

"Am assuming the color of my surroundings."

June 24, 1935, Colorado.

"Have climed four passes over 10,000′ and 'Billy' is looking forward for more."

June 15, 1936, Hoquiam, Wash.

"All well except the weather."

Dec. 23, 1937. Tucson, Arizona.

"Arrived here yesterday after three days traveling. All well—especially 'Billy' the steed."

On April 29, the Division of Entomology and Parasitology honored Dr. Van Dyke at a banquet at which he was presented with a bound volume of letters from his friends, students and his associate faculty members.

1939–1940. Trip to Florida.

Shortly after he retired Dr. and Mrs. Van Dyke set out on a trip to the Southern States and particularly to Florida—a place the doctor long wanted to visit and collect insects. Unfortunately they encountered an exceptionally cold winter and were neither happy nor comfortable much of the time. A few excerpts from letters and post cards will give some highlights of this ill-fated trip.

Nov. 18, 1939. Mobile, Alabama.

"We are stormbound today so we are doing a bit of letter writing. On pleasant days we spend most of the time in the field. You would enjoy this country now for the trees have taken on the gorgeous autumn tints. Color photography might record some of it but could not do justice. The sweet gum and black gum have the most brilliant colors—crimson—but other trees like the sumach, dogwood, and so forth, are also quite gaily colored.

"While insect life is quite evident here now as it is with us, the seasonal demarcation seems to me to be more definite. That is particularly the case with leaf-eating insects, grasshoppers excepted. Some few flowers, chiefly asters and other Compositæ are still in bloom and these still attract a few Hymenoptera and Diptera.

"Most of our time is given to bark and ground collecting now. From beneath bark we get a few good things and a few Carabidæ are still to be found on the ground beneath cover. The long dry spell has, however, driven many of these to deeper levels. Now that rain has come, I hope that they will be forced to the surface . . . I am giving a good deal of my time to the Carabidæ for I feel that now is the time to get series of many of the local species and races as well as back that up with field observations. *With this material and information* I hope to place myself in a better position when I come to do the intensive studying of the groups. Will work here as well as in Florida and other places in the lowlands of the South and later on more work in the highlands. I feel that I can do much in the way of assemblying

material and data, for later use. I hope to do considerable work in Le Conte's old home region, Habersham Co., Ga. There is where most of his early types came from. Why Eastern workers head for Texas and Arizona and neglect their own territories, I cannot understand."

"All is well with us here and we are living a quiet and healthful life, daylight hours in the open and nine or ten hours rest in bed at night."
Jan. 12, 1940. Shamrock, Fla.

"All is well except the weather, but this is winter even in Florida. Collecting today along the Suwannee but got caught in the rain."
Jan. 22, 1940. Brooksville, Fla.

"We came to Florida to keep warm but so far have had frigid weather at night. The Hibiscus, Poinsettias, Bamboos, and Bougainvillia are all badly injured by frost. In the afternoons it is sufficiently warm to collect, mostly from beneath bark. Ground work is poor. Will gradually work south."
Jan. 31, 1940. Brooksville, Fla.

"The Ice Age has passed and we human beings are beginning to feel like ourselves again.

"Most of my collecting in Florida has been either bark collecting or ground collecting, the former fair, the latter poor. Only under cover along the margins of the shallow lakes and ponds, have I been able to find any Carabidæ. In the forests log rolling produces very little. Perhaps it is because of the cold weather or more likely because of the sandy nature of the soil. Of course practically no insects are to be found flying or on the verdure so nets and beating sheets are out of the question . . . .

"We have now been in Florida over a month and have had cold weather all of the time. For sun-loving Californians that is quite a hardship, especially when one did not expect it. Fortunately our room has always been warm. I am still a good stoker and an airtight stove is a blessing.

"Tomorrow we expect to move on south now that Tampa is thawing out, stopping for a week or so in some of the less fashionable and less expensive towns along the Southwest Coast, then cross over and gradually work up the East Coast. March or perhaps April, if the spring is late, will find us crossing into Georgia. Then we will begin to enjoy ourselves, in regions where collecting is good, the country hilly and attractive, and where prices are reasonable."
Feb. 18, 1940.

At Miami collecting was still poor. From here they headed north. Key Largo was the point furthest south reached on Feb. 24, 1940. They expected to reach St. Augustine or Jacksonville some time in March. They reached St. Augustine on March 2, 1940 where they spent a week resting.
March 18, 1940. Clemson College, South Carolina.

"We have finished with Florida, Savannah, and Charleston. From here we will go into Georgia, but our next mailing address will be care of Dr. Henry Goode, Dept. of Zoology, Alabama Polytechnic Instit., Auburn. Alabama."

This was the last word received from the Van Dykes. On the evening of Tuesday, May 21, 1940, the Berkeley Daily Gazette carried this item:

Mrs. E. C. Van Dyke Dies in Alabama

"Mrs. Mary Ames Van Dyke, wife of Dr. Edwin C. Van Dyke, emeritus professor of entomology at the University of California, passed away May 18 at Gadsden, Ala., according to word received from the South. Her death was caused by cerebral hemorrhage, complicated by bronchial pneumonia. Mrs. Van Dyke was 69 years of age. Dr. Van Dyke retired from the University faculty last July."

Returning to California, Dr. Van Dyke came to the Academy and in conversation with the Director, observed: "My life has been divided into three parts. The first was the period of my student days and my practice of medicine. The second was the period of my marriage and my teaching. I am now entering the third—I intend to devote the rest of my life to the California Academy of Sciences."

Collector and Teacher

Dr. Van Dyke was an earnest, strenuous, untiring, careful and painstaking collector. He was ever thinking of the future and would act according to the circumstances at hand. He beat trees and brush with consideration. If he turned over a stone or a log he carefully replaced it to its original position and saw to it that his students and associates followed his example. The first time I ever went collecting with him on Mt. Tamalpais he took great pains to see that all of us followed his example and never hesitated to reprimand those who carelessly left a trail of destruction behind them. By following his conservation methods the collecting grounds remained fruitful throughout the years and each successive class of students profited by his methods. He also kept close watch of the specimens as they were taken and whenever a rare species was discovered all hands set about to procure more. His example and teaching along lines of conservation of insects and their habitats had a lasting effect throughout his lifetime and will be carried on by his students, and all of us who have been associated with him and who learned many lessons in natural history from him.

Dr. Van Dyke was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word, a man of the highest ideals, and was an enthusiast who inspired generations of students in college and a great many youngsters of grammar school and high school age. As a teacher, he was noted for the personal touch. He lectured in a loud, strong voice and used excellent diction and had a fearless demeanor. And yet he was easily approachable and had a hearty laugh for a joke or a mischievous trick, especially if it was on him. His relationships with students on the annual summer field course will probably best be remembered for it was here that all of the undergraduates were exposed to both his boundless enthusiasm for collecting and his immense knowledge of almost all insect groups. His energy as a collector was a source of stimulation to each group of students and numerous stories are still told about the relative physical abilities of Dr. Van Dyke and his students. Each year after the students and Dr. Van Dyke had spent several strenuous mornings of collecting, only Dr. Van Dyke and a very few students would be capable of continuing with further arduous collecting in the afternoons. However, by virtue of the vitality and enthusiasm of their teacher, the students were stimulated to greater attainments than

might otherwise have been possible. Furthermore, in both his formal courses and in the field course he did not utilize assistants but gave fully and freely of his own time. The door to his office was always unlatched and no matter how busy he was with his own problems, he was always ready to set them aside and offer the benefit of his vast experience and sound judgement to the student with a problem. Students, both undergraduate and graduate, soon learned that Dr. Van Dyke was a ready source of information on the biology and ecology of most orders of insects. In any case where specimens bearing one of Dr. Van Dyke's collectors labels, or of a species which he had collected, were enquired about, the student was assured of an accurate and frequently lengthy discussion of the taxonomy, distribution, habitat and biology of the species in question. Since he was not in the habit of pressing his vast knowledge and experience upon the students, their reaction upon unlocking this storehouse was invariably one of amazement.

Dr. Van Dyke also spent hours after school and on Saturday mornings, naming beetles for youngsters and telling them where they could seek additional species—hours which were otherwise precious for his own work. Fortunately he lived to see the fruits of his unselfish efforts as these youngsters grew up to become distinguished amateurs or to assume important scientific positions throughout the world where they are carrying on the ideals with which he instilled them.

On Thursday, September 26, Dr. Van Dyke was not feeling very well and did not come to the Academy. On Saturday he consented to go to the hospital, where he died quietly early Sunday morning, September 28, 1952. The funeral services were held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, September 30, at Gray's, Divisadero Street at Post, San Francisco, California. Funeral arrangements were made by his nephew, E. G. Bangs, a prominent architect of the city. The casket was enshrouded with eight large groups of flowers: mostly chrysanthemums, gladiolus and greens. All the staff members of the Department of Entomology and the Director, R. C. Miller of the California Academy of Sciences, and representatives of the Department of Entomology and Parasitology of the University of California were present. Interment was in Cypress Lawn Memorial Park, San Francisco.

Dr. Van Dyke's collection, consisting of some 200,000 speci-

mens, was presented to the California Academy of Sciences. It consisted of his personal collection of some 150,000 specimens and several private collections which he purchased and presented to the Academy. During his many years as Honorary Curator of Entomology he also added countless numbers of other insects to these collections. In addition to his library and collections a considerable sum of money was also left to the California Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Van Dyke always held a position of prominence in the field of scientific entomology and especially in systematic entomology. He was the outstanding authority on the Coleoptera of the Pacific Region of North America; a national authority on the families Carabidæ, Buprestidæ, Elateridæ, Cerambycidæ, Cossonidæ, Cleridæ, Ostomidæ, Scarabaeidæ, Lucanidæ, Curculionidæ, Scolytidæ, as well as an authority on the general distribution of insects in North America and on insects infesting forest trees and the products thereof.

He was a prominent member and patron of the California Academy of Sciences which he joined in 1904 and he acted for years as Curator of Insects without salary. He was a charter member of the Pacific Coast Entomological Society which was organized in 1901 and of which he was president from 1908 to 1931. He was also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, charter member and fellow of the Entomological Society of America; member of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, Ecological Society of America, Western Society of Naturalists, Berline Entomological Society and a charter member of the Sierra Club.

He was an indefatigable investigator and a most successful and beloved teacher and associate. In all his lectures, whether in the classroom or on the public platform, he adhered to strict decorum and always presented his information in an interesting and comprehensive manner. He was always a gentleman and his influence and contributions did much to allay the ridicule that was at times directed to the study of "bugs" as was the derisive term often applied to Entomology. His collections and many publications will serve as a fitting and lasting measure of his accomplishments. Edwin C. Van Dyke was a truly great man as well as a great scientist. We trust that a suitable monument may someday be erected in his honor.

Entomological Bibliography of Edwin C. Van Dyke[1]

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7. 1914. The Great Basin tent caterpillar in California (Malacosoma fragilis Stretch.) Order—Lepidoptera. Family—Lasiocampidæ. Monthly Bulletin, California State Commission of Horticulture, 3 (9) : 351–355, 2 figs. [A rather similar article, using one of the same figures, but without author credit and perhaps not by Dr. Van Dyke, appeared on p. 104 of the Scientific American for January, 1915.]
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[1] Prepared by Hugh B. Leech. Certain (but not all) papers and discussions by Dr. Van Dyke, reported in the Proceedings of various entomological societies, are listed here.

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NEW COLEOPTERA FROM WESTERN NORTH AMERICA

(Carabidae, Throscidae, Curculionidae)

EDWIN C. VAN DYKE
California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco

FAMILY CARABIDAE

Diplochaetus desertus Van Dyke, new species

Elongate, parallel, flattened, testaceous, shining. *Head* longer than broad, front smooth, longitudinal impressions feeble, mandibles strongly prognathous, eyes but slightly convex, neck long and parallel sided, one-half length of head. *Prothorax* slightly broader than long, somewhat wider in front where perceptibly wider than elytra, sides arcuate anteriorly, narrowed and convergent behind and with small right angled hind angles and with a well defined carina, the disc smooth, the longitudinal line finely impressed, the anterior transverse impression poorly defined, the posterior conspicuous, somewhat rugose and with basal foveae well marked. *Elytra* long, with sides parallel, twice as long as wide (4 mm. by 2 mm.), the disc feebly convex, striae complete, finely impressed and very finely punctured, third interval generally with a small posterior puncture, humeri with a small, oblique carina, marginal and submarginal striae deeply impressed, confluent near base and towards apex, and strongly sinuate apically. Beneath smooth and shining, mental tooth broad and feebly notched at apex, ligula bisetose at apex and prosternum evidently longitudinally impressed at middle. Length 6 mm., breadth 2 mm.

Holotype male (in Calif. Acad. Sciences, Entomology) and 14 paratypes collected by Ralph Hopping and his son-in-law, Parker Talbot, on the margins of the SALTON SEA, RIVERSIDE CO., CALIFORNIA, March 31, 1937.

This insect possesses the defining characters of the genus as given by Chaudoir[1], especially the broad and apically notched mental tooth and the bisetose apices of the ligula, but it differs greatly from our other North American species of the genus, *Diplochaetus lecontei* Horn, by being more elongate and parallel sided, by the pronounced prognathous mandibles, the elongated neck, the narrowing of the pronotum posteriorly and the complete striae of the elytra. It resembles *Pogonistes planatus* Horn in the posteriorly narrowed pronotum and bisetose ligula. All three species, *P. planatus*, *D. lecontei* and the above described species are much more closely related than generally believed and perhaps should be united under the name *Pogonistes* Chaudoir when they are studied in relation to Old World forms. The genus *Pogonus* Dejean is of course an entirely different entity.

[1] Ann. Soc. Ent. Belgique, XIV, 1871, p. 36.

Pseudomorpha peninsularis Van Dyke, new species

Rather small, narrow, elongate, subparallel, elytra with parallel sides and prothorax with sides slightly convergent forwards, rufopiceous and with surface obscurely alutaceous. *Head* more than two-thirds as wide as prothorax, smooth, with a few minute punctures chiefly near eyes and in a transverse row across the vertex, preocular lobes moderately developed. *Prothorax* transverse, about three-fifths as long as broad, perceptibly broader posteriorly than elytra, moderately convex, with a few very minute punctures, chiefly laterally, apex shallowly emarginate, finely margined, base transverse, finely margined laterally, sides rather broadly margined and reflexed and base feebly arcuate. *Elytra* 5 mm. long by 3 mm. wide, with straight and parallel sides, finely margined, much more so than prothorax, apex truncate, outer angles well rounded, sutural narrowly rounded, disc with sutural row of coarse punctures each bearing an erect seta, rest of surface very finely and rather densely punctured. Beneath, the abdomen somewhat densely punctured and scabous in front, third and fourth ventrals with a small patch of short golden pile at middle in the males. Length 7 mm., breadth 3 mm.

Holotype male (C.A.S., Ent.) and 6 paratype males, all collected July 29, 1938, 10 miles S. of CATAVINA, LOWER CALIFORNIA, by Michelbacher and Ross.

This species according to Notman's key[2] would run close to *P. cylindrica* Casey and *P. angustata* Horn, but it differs by having the surface finely alutaceous and the elytra with but one row of prominent punctures, the sutural. In *P. angustata* the sides of the prothorax are definitely and feebly convergent forwards, more narrowly margined and the elytra generally more coarsely punctured. In *P. parallela* Van Dyke, which superficially resembles it, the prothorax is more parallel sided and the elytra with numerous rows of coarse punctures.

Pseudomorpha alleni Van Dyke, new species

Medium sized, elongate, subparallel, elytra with parallel sides and prothorax with sides feebly arcuate and convergent forwards, rufopiceous, pronotum generally lighter in color and surface alutaceous and dull. *Head* fully one-half as wide as prothorax, smooth with a few minute punctures chiefly in a row across vertex, preocular lobes feebly developed. *Prothorax* transverse, about one half as long as broad, considerably broader posteriorly than elytra, moderately convex, with fine punctures scattered over the surface but more dense and coarser laterally, apex feebly emarginate, finely margined laterally, sides very broadly margined especially posteriorly and reflexed, and fimbriated as usual, base feebly arcuate. *Elytra* 5 mm. long by 3.5 mm.

[2] Proc. U. S. Nat. Mu., Vol. 67, Art. 14, No. 2586, pp. 14-15.

wide with straight and parallel sides, finely margined, apex truncate, outer angles broadly rounded, sutural narrowly rounded, disc with 7 well-defined rows of moderately coarse punctures each bearing an erect seta. Beneath, the abdomen rather densely punctured and scabrous in front, third and fourth ventrals with a small patch of golden pile at middle in the males. Length 9 mm., breadth 4 mm. across elytra.

Holotype male (C.A.S., Ent.) and seven paratype males collected at TUBA CITY, ARIZONA, July 18, 1937, by R. P. Allen.

This species according to Notman's key, runs close to *P. angustata* Horn and its associates but it is slightly larger, proportionally broader, duller in appearance, the head broad, the prothorax quite broad, conspicuously broader posteriorly than the elytra as well as with a broad lateral margin, and the elytra with seven longitudinal rows of rather coarse punctures.

FAMILY THROSCIDAE

Drapetes parallelus Van Dyke, new species

Elongate, subparallel, shining, black with a broad subbasal red fascia on elytra, the two portions meeting at suture and outer angular portion reaching humeri. *Antennae* piceous, head finely, sparsely punctured. *Prothorax* transverse, sides for basal two-thirds straight and parallel, anteriorly rounded and convergent, disc convex, rather uniformly but not closely punctured, punctures finer towards base, hind angles feebly divergent and without carina. Scutellum sparsely, minutely punctured. *Elytra* very long, three-sevenths as broad as long, with sides straight and subparallel, and about as broad as prothorax, disc finely, sparsely punctured, punctures having a tendency to be arranged in longitudinal rows (best shown in the red fascia), and minutely sparsely setose, humeri feebly bulbous. Prosternum and propleurae rather coarsely and somewhat sparsely punctured, mesosternum more finely and abdomen more coarsely and densely. Length 4.75 mm., breadth 1.75 mm.

Holotype (C.A.S., Ent.), a unique, collected in the CATALINA MTS. OF ARIZONA, August 15, 1938, by Owen Bryant and kindly presented to the Academy.

This interesting species has about the same color pattern as *Drapetes geminatus* Say but it differs from this as from all other species that I know by its extreme length and parallel form. It is perhaps most closely related to the Mexican *Drapetes sellatus* Bonv. but this species is more robust, somewhat elliptical in shape and has the red maculation extended laterally to the base of the elytra.

FAMILY CURCULIONIDAE

Dinocleus bryanti Van Dyke, new species

Of moderate size, slightly flattened above, black and rather densely clothed with short, recumbent, squamiform, cinerous pubescence, the erect hairs not evident. *Head* sparsely, coarsely punctate, feebly convex; beak about twice as long as broad, two-thirds as long as prothorax, flattened above with median carina poorly defined and moderately pubescent. *Prothorax* perceptibly wider than long, suddenly narrowed in front, sides for posterior two-thirds straight or feebly convex, lateral tubercles not prominent, merely a rounded enlargement at angle posterior to apical constriction; disc very coarsely, not closely punctured, elevated areas between punctures very finely and densely punctured, broad, triangular discal area generally denuded, and with a median linear impression. Scutellum small. *Elytra* five-eights as broad as long, sides feebly arcuate, gradually narrowed towards apex which is subtruncate; disc with strial punctures rather coarse, distinctly separated though close together, intervals near suture flattened, lateral feebly convex, third, fifth and seventh often elevated, finely punctured, rugose, and rather densely clothed with scalelike pubescence and generally with numerous small denuded areas, especially one on fourth interval of each elytron one-third distant from base and another on same interval behind middle. Abdomen beneath rather densely, finely punctured, with series of larger punctures arranged rather transversely across the sclerites, and densely pubescent though with scattered denuded spots around larger punctures giving surface a maculated appearance. Legs moderately stout and densely clothed with hairy pubescence. Length (holotype) 13 mm., breadth 4.5 mm.

Holotype (C.A.S., Ent.), one of the larger specimens selected from a series of 51 individuals, collected at SELIGMAN, ARIZONA, August 3, 1936, by Owen Bryant. The specimens vary greatly in size, the smaller ones averaging 9 mm. in length, the larger and more normal about the size of the type. Numbers of the larger specimens are designated as paratypes.

This species would come after *D. denticollis* Casey according to Casey's table[3]. It differs, however, from that and its associates in having the rostrum not distinctly carinated, the sides of the prothorax not prominently protuberant and angulate but gradually rounded off to the anterior constriction.

This very distinct species represented by a good series of more or less uniformly characterized specimens was found, strange as it might seem, only a few miles from Peach Springs, Ariz., the type locality for *D. denticollis*, a species having the lateral prothoracic tubercles extremely well developed.

[3] Coleopt. Notices III. Ann. New York Acad. Sci. VI, 1891, p. 177.

NEW COLEOPTERA FROM WESTERN NORTH AMERICA

(Carabidae, Melasidae, Buprestidae, Curculionidae)

EDWIN C. VAN DYKE
California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco

Family CARABIDAE

Nebria raveni Van Dyke, new species

Of moderate size, robust, head and prothorax shining black, the former with two faint rufous spots on the front between the eyes, the elytra faintly violaceous in color. *Head* robust, four-fifths as broad as prothorax, eyes not prominent, barely projecting beyond the sides of the head, the neck with sides parallel, antennae reaching to middle third of elytra. *Prothorax* one-third broader than long, apex bisinuate, base transverse, sides broadly arcuate in front, strongly constricted posterior to middle and with pronounced right-angled hind angles, the disc with median longitudinal and anterior and posterior impressions well impressed, the lateral margins broad and distinctly reflexed. *Elytra* evenly elliptical, narrowed and feebly rounded in humeral region, the disc moderately convex, the striae deep and finely punctured, the intervals convex, the seventh with one foveate interruption on left side and two on the right. Legs and under surface smooth and shining black. Length 15 mm., breadth 6 mm.

Holotype female (in California Academy of Sciences, Entomology), collected along a small rill below a snowbank on the slopes of MT. DARWIN, at 13,600 feet, of the southern SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS OF FRESNO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, August 9, 1952, by Peter Raven.

Nebria raveni, with *N. ingens* Horn and *N. riversi* Van Dyke, belongs to a group of three species all found at high altitudes in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. The three are more or less restricted in range and rather widely separated as to individual distribution. *N. riversi* is confined to Mt. Lyell and the high mountains to the east of the Yosemite Valley, *N. ingens* to Mt. Whitney and the high mountains of its territory and *N. raveni* to Mt. Darwin, a peak midway between Mt. Lyell and Mt. Whitney. *N. raveni* is midway in structure between the other two. *N. ingens* is jet black, the elytra elliptical but narrowed, especially towards base with the humeri obliterated, and with the elytral striae but vaguely punctured. *N. riversi* is rather robust, the elytra broadly elliptical, with the sides almost parallel and the humeri broadly rounded, of a bright metallic green color and with the

strial punctures fine but well defined. *N. raveni* is evenly elliptical in shape, with the sides less parallel than in *N. riversi,* the humeral area narrowed, without distinct humeri, the strial punctures quite evident and the surface dull and with a faint violet cast. The large size, wingless condition, and general shape of the head, particularly the parallel sided neck region is characteristic of all three.

Family Melasidae

Dromaeolus peninsularis Van Dyke, new species

Rather small, narrow, subcylindrical, opaque black above, antennae and legs rufo-piceous, sparsely clothed with a very short fulvous pile which is a bit more dense toward the base of the elytra. *Head* very convex, coarsely, densely punctured, a bit flattened just above the interocular carinae which are interrupted at the middle and feebly reflexed as a result of the flattening above, the clypeus flattened and coarsely, closely punctured with the basal half as broad as the apical margin; the antennae extending about two segments beyond the base of pronotum, robust, with segment four about as broad as long and the remainder to the tenth gradually longer. *Prothorax* a bit longer than broad, sides posteriorly straight and parallel, arcuately narrowed at apical third, disc somewhat flattened, with a feeble median longitudinal depression extending from the base to the center, the surface very densely punctured and at the sides rugose. *Elytra* finely striate, rather densely punctured but less dense and less coarse than the pronotum. Body beneath densely punctured but more finely than above, the punctures of the prosternum very coarse and discrete, the prosternal spine blunt, the triangle of the propleurae not twice as long as wide at base, the antennal groove not sharply limited internally. Length 7.5 mm., breadth 2 mm.

Holotype (in California Academy of Sciences, Entomology), from 10 miles east of Mesquital, Lower California, Mexico, June 23, 1938, and *paratype* (C.A.S., Ent.) from 10 miles south of Punta Prieta, Lower California, June 21, 1938, both collected by A. E. Michelbacher and E. S. Ross.

This species is related to *Dromaeolus basalis* LeConte and according to the key in Horn's monograph (Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., XIII, 1886, pp. 5–58) it possesses all the essential characteristics of that species. It differs, however, by having a duller, more sooty black appearance, more robust antennae, the segments 4–10 but little longer than broad, whereas they are decidedly longer in *basalis;* the interocular carinae more definitely transverse and a bit reflexed at margin, feebly arched in *basalis;* and the prosternal spine wedge-shaped, blunt at apex and flattened, whereas cordiform and sulcate in the other.

Family Buprestidae

Acmaeodera bryanti Van Dyke, new species

Small, subcylindrical, head and prothorax a greenish bronze and elytra a dark blue, without maculations, and rather sparsely though regularly clothed with short suberect setae, finer on front of head, longer on pronotum and regularly placed in rows on the elytral intervals. Prosternum transverse in front, thus belonging to the "Acmaeoderae truncatae" of Horn, the antennae with the fifth segment suddenly broader than fourth and last ventral segment without subapical crest. *Head* convex, rather coarsely, closely punctured, feebly, longitudinally impressed at middle of front, the clypeus with a transverse margin in front. *Prothorax* transverse, evidently broader than elytra, with sides broadly rounded, the disc convex and coarsely, cribrately punctured and with a slight median longtitudinal impression, anterior margin broadly lobed at center, posterior transverse. *Elytra* about two and one-half times as long as prothorax, sides feebly sinuate, narrowed behind, rounded at apex and with margins of elytra serrate, disc convex, with striae finely yet sharply impressed and finely, closely punctured, the punctures somewhat elongate, and intervals about twice as wide as striae, somewhat flattened and with a row of fine, shallow punctures down their center from which arise the setae. Beneath the submentum closely punctured, prosternum more sparsely and finely and propleurae more coarsely and sparsely punctured and abdomen rather densely and somewhat coarsely punctured and with the pile more hairlike, much inclined and conspicuous but not dense. Length 6 mm., breadth prothorax 2 mm., elytra 1.75 mm.

Holotype (in California Academy of Sciences, Entomology), a unique collected at Del Rio, Texas, May 10, 1951, by Owen Bryant.

This small but very distinct species belongs as stated in the "Acmaeoderae truncatae" series and according to Fall's table (Jour. New York Ent. Soc. VII, p. 29, 1899) should follow *A. cribricollis* Horn. Its size, color and type of pubescence should enable it to be readily distinguished from any of its associates.

Chrysobothris yucatanensis Van Dyke, new species

Of moderate size, bronzed, evenly rounded in front and gradually narrowed and moderately rounded at apex. The *head* is feebly convex in front in the males, distinctly so in the females, the clypeus broadly and shallowly emarginate with the outer portion rounded, the front coarsely, closely punctured, with a Y-shaped callosity on the vertex and a pair of callosities below and between the eyes, and feebly pilose, the antennae short with the outer segments serrate and gradually narrowed towards the apex. *Prothorax* slightly more than twice as broad as long, apex very feebly bisinuate, the base strongly so with the median lobe prominent, the disc moderately convex, with a slight depression at center, with well-spaced punctures medially and coarsely, closely punctured and rugose at the sides, and with a smooth longitudinal line extending from the center posteriorly to the apex of the

posterior median lobe. *Elytra* twice the length of prothorax, somewhat broader at base than prothorax, humeri prominent, sides gradually narrowed and arcuate from base to blunt and rounded apex, the apical margin serrulate, the disc feebly convex with three well-developed carinae, the inner parallel to suture and extending from apex almost to base (fully to base in one specimen), the second or median sinuous and reaching from apex to base with a slight interruption near base, and the third shorter and more or less interrupted and running from near apex to beyond middle where it arches outwardly and beneath the humeri, the general surface rather finely and sparsely punctured centrally and more coarsely, densely punctured and rugose laterally. Three shallow, more or less densely punctured foveae are generally present, a subapical one near the apex in the groove between the inner and median carinae, a second about one third the distance from apex which generally straddles or interrupts the outermost carina near its origin and a third, one-third the distance from base which straddles or interrupts the median carina. The ventral surface bronzed, the tarsi somewhat greenish, the prosternum smooth and shining medially, densely clothed with cinereous pile at sides, this pile continuing on to the abdomen but less dense, the abdominal sclerites definitely grooved along the middle. Length 11 to 12 mm., breadth 5 mm.

Males with front feebly convex and densely punctured, the front tibiae arched and with the apices rather abruptly though not greatly expanded, the last ventral segment broadly truncate and provided with a small tooth at sides of emargination.

Females with the front distinctly convex, coarsely punctured but not densely so except at sides, the front tibiae simply arched but without any apical expansion, and last ventral segment with but a small emargination at apex.

Holotype male, *allotype* female (in California Academy of Sciences, Entomology), and three *paratypes*, from Colonia, Yucatan, Mexico, all reared from twigs of *Cedrela odorata* which had been scorched by the hot sun. The first two specimens were reared by the late John Miller, the remainder by J. P. Perry, Jr., from whom I received the material.

This species belongs to a small series of species including *C. distincta* Lap. and Gory, *C. schaefferi* Obenberger, *C. peninsularis*, Schaeffer and *C. sinaloae* Van Dyke. Its distinctive features are its rather compact elliptical shape, the prosternal pilosity, and the male forelegs with but a feeble apical enlargement.

Family Curculionidae

Nemocestes fragariae Van Dyke, new species

Rather small, robust, piceous, antennae and legs somewhat rufous (fresh specimens) densely clothed with closely applied gray scales with patches of darker scales here and there, giving the surface a tesselated appearance,

and evidently pilose, the pile fine, dense and suberect. *Head* flattened above, interocular area broad; rostrum quadrate, somewhat longer than head, feebly narrowed forward, both head and rostrum moderately punctured but punctures concealed in most cases by the scales; antennal scape reaching beyond front margin of prothorax, second funicular segment elongate, the following transverse and gradually broader; eyes somewhat prominent. *Prothorax* wider than long, widest at middle, sides evenly arcuate, disc with punctures moderately coarse but well spaced and often concealed by the scales. *Elytra* elliptical though with sides perceptibly parallel at middle, with humeral area well rounded, disc somewhat flattened, the declivity vertical, surface finely striate with striae feebly impressed and finely punctured, intervals flat. Abdomen feebly punctured but punctures generally concealed by scales. Length 5 mm., width 2.5 mm.

Holotype (in California Academy of Sciences, Entomology), and 15 *paratypes* all collected by H. E. Thomas from the roots of cultivated strawberries in the Springfield district near WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, September 4, 1952.

This little weevil belongs to a series of rather small *Nemocestes* and perhaps resembles most *N. sordidus Van Dyke* from the area about Niles and San Jose, Calif. This latter has the pronotum more coarsely punctured, the eyes less protuberant, the afterbody more evenly arched and the pile shorter and more rigid. *N. montanus* Van Dyke, also has coarse pronotal punctures and somewhat flattened eyes as well as very short pile, and *N. puncticollis* Casey likewise has very coarse pronotal punctures and short setae but a prothorax that is widest behind the middle.

To date four species of this native genus have been reared from cultivated strawberries: the widely distributed *N. incomptus* Horn from near Watsonville; *N. sordidus* Van Dyke from near Niles and Berryessa, Calif.; *N. montanus* Van Dyke from Albany, Oregon, by J. Wilcox, and *N. fragariae* n. sp.

Dysticheus rotundicollis Van Dyke, new species

Of moderate size, robust, piceous, densely clothed with closely applied gray and light brown scales. More uniformly gray beneath, and densely setose over the entire upper surface, the setae very short, quite erect, and arranged in a double row along each elytral interval. *Head* flattened above, the interocular area broad, rostrum longer than wide, narrowed forwards with sides concave, both head and rostrum moderately punctured but punctures generally concealed by scales; antennal scape reaching beyond apex of prothorax, first four funicular segments a bit longer than broad, the last three transverse, the club fusiform and rufous; eyes small but convex. *Prothorax* as broad as long, widest at middle, sides evenly arcuate, disc feebly convex, punctures moderately coarse but well spaced and with short and

rigid setae arising from each. *Elytra* elliptical, the disc feebly convex, with striae fine but well impressed and with regular but well-spaced punctures, the intervals feebly convex. Abdomen feebly and sparsely punctured. Length 5.5 mm., breadth 2.5 mm.

Holotype (in California Academy of Sciences, Entomology), and *paratypes* collected at ANTIOCH, CALIFORNIA, September 16, 1952, by G. A. Marsh on *Senecio douglasii.*

The species varies considerably as to color, in some the lighter colored scales are more prominent, in others the darker, and in some the elytral disc is more or less uniformly dark but with the declivity entirely light. This species was first called to our attention by a series of specimens collected from nests of the wasp *Eucerceris* sp., by E. G. Linsley and J. W. MacSwain.

When compared with the type species (and only other species in the genus), *D. insignis* Horn, *D. rotundicollis* differs primarily in being a bit larger and more elongate, the prothorax about as broad as long whereas transverse in *D. insignis*, in being more robust and having a greater depth of body, the declivity vertical and in having the setae denser, more erect and rigid. All specimens that I have seen of *D. insignis* have been collected east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in Owens Valley or Death Valley while *D. rotundicollis* seems to be restricted to sandy areas in the neighborhood of Antioch, at the upper end of the San Francisco Bay.

A NEW COSSONID BEETLE FROM CALIFORNIA, PROBABLY INTRODUCED

(Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

EDWIN C. VAN DYKE
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While investigating some old driftwood on the sand dunes south of San Francisco, Mr. W. B. Schulz has at various times during the last few years, succeeded in collecting quite a series of specimens of a small cossonid beetle which I consider to be a new species of the genus *Macrancylus*. This is the third species of the genus that I know of: *M. linearis* LeConte from Florida, Texas, the West Indies and the Hawaiian Islands (for *M. immigrans* [Perkins] is pronounced by Zimmerman to be the same); a species from the Galapagos Islands, the description of which will appear later in my paper on Galapagos Island Coleoptera; and this third species the description of which follows:

Macrancylus franciscanus Van Dyke, new species

Small, linear and subcylindrical, smooth and shining, with forebody rufous and afterbody rufopiceous. Head with sides somewhat parallel, feebly convergent forwards, eyes small, occiput smooth with a few small punctures anteriorly, rostrum cylindrical, minutely, somewhat densely punctured, slightly less than one-half length of head proper and about one-half its width, the entire head about as long as prothorax. Prothorax somewhat less than twice as long as broad, cuneate, sides rounded at base, straight and feebly convergent forwards, disc shining with very fine well spaced punctures posteriorly, somewhat denser towards apex. Elytra about twice as long as broad, one-third longer than prothorax, slightly narrower than base of prothorax, with sides parallel anteriorly, gradually narrowed and rounded at apex; disc evenly convex, with striae finely impressed and finely, closely punctured, intervals flat and about twice as wide as striae. Under surface alutaceous, rather finely, sparsely punctured in front, the abdomen more coarsely and densely punctured. Length, 3 mm., breadth, 0.75 mm.

Holotype (in Calif. Acad. Sciences, Ent.), selected from a series of 44 specimens collected south of San Francisco by W. B. Schulz, on March 6, 1949, and various other dates, from old rotting driftwood. Numerous paratypes are designated.

(Since the above was written, seven specimens have been taken at Drake's Bay, Point Reyes, Marin Co., Calif., May 16, 1952, from beneath driftwood timbers, by Hugh B. Leech.)

When compared with *Macrancylus linearis* LeConte, the type of the genus, this species has been found to be in general more robust, the rostrum much broader and with sides more parallel, entire head much larger, prothorax proportionally shorter, subcylindrical and very feebly convergent forwards, in contrast to a narrow, twice as long as broad and decidedly cuneate prothorax in *linearis;* the pronotal disc very finely, sparsely punctured, rather coarsely so and denser in *linearis* and elytral striae very finely punctured whereas rather coarsely punctured in the other.

Since it occurs in driftwood, it is possible that *M. franciscanus* is an introduced species.

CHANGE OF RULING ON PERMITS TO COLLECT INSECTS AND ARACHNIDS IN AREAS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

The following notice was issued by the National Parks Service, Washington, D.C., and released over the signature of Ronald F. Lee, Assistant Director. Entomologists will welcome the chance to collect again in National Parks and Monuments, without undue red tape. We trust they will not give the Service cause to regret this change in policy.

"A recent action to simplify procedures governing the collection of scientific materials in areas administered by the National Parks Service is of interest to entomologists.

"Formerly, in order to collect insects and arachnids, it has been necessary for entomologists, other than federal employees, to qualify, through appointment by the Department of the Interior, as collaborators without compensation. This involved considerable paper work and delay, both for the applicant and the Government.

"The new procedure, authority for which is set forth in *The Federal Register* of May 15, 1953 (18 FR 2831, 2832), excepts the collection of insects and arachnids from the federal employment requirement. It will now be possible for qualified entomologists to submit a simple application form by mail or in person to the Superintendent of the national park or monument concerned who is empowered to issue permits to make collections for scientific purposes.

"The interests of science have been served well by regulations intended to preserve in the national parks and monuments a maximum of as nearly as possible undisturbed natural biological associations. Collection of specimens is limited to legitimate scientific collection of such nature as to have no measurable adverse effect upon the biological values involved."

BOOK NOTICE

AUSTRALIAN TERMITES, THE BIOLOGY, RECOGNITION, AND ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMON SPECIES. By F. N. Ratcliffe, F. J. Gay, and T. Greaves. Pp. 1–124, 21 figs. (many of which are really plates). Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Melbourne, 1952.

In the eyes of a naturalist, Australia is blessed with a marvellous and interesting fauna of termites, but this blessing is a curse to Australians. They not only have to contend with the type of termite damage we are familiar with in America, but also face destruction of standing timber, fruit trees, crops, pasture grass, and subterranean cable sheathings. Termites can even build obstacles to prevent airplanes from landing on air strips; in northern Australia mounds of sufficient height to endanger aircraft landings can be constructed overnight!

The book outlines these problems and gives the identity and biology of the species responsible for them. The treatment is well illustrated and an example of a fine guide book designed to aid the economic worker.—E.S.R.

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